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**WEDNESFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

---

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

**WILLIAM BENTLEY**

**FOR THE YEAR 1950**

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OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1950

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**To the Chairman and Members of the  
Urban District Council of Wednesfield.**

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM, AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my report on the Health of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1950.

The Birth Rate for the year shows a decrease on last year, being 16.15 against 17.89 per 1,000 of the population. The rate for England and Wales was 15.8.

The Death Rate was 8.53 against 8.86 per 1,000 of the population in 1949, which appears favourable against the Rate of England and Wales, this being 11.6.

The Infant Mortality Rate is 42.55 compared with 32.22 in 1949, and 51.78 in 1948. The actual number of deaths for the year was 12 as against 10 last year, and 18 in 1948. Ten of the deaths were infants under 4 weeks of age, and 7 of these were due to prematurity. The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales was 29.8 against 32 in 1949.

No maternal deaths were recorded during the year.

Combined with my report is that of your Sanitary Inspector.

In conclusion I would like to express thanks to all those who have co-operated in the work of the Health Department during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Madam, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM BENTLEY,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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*Chairman :* COUNCILLOR A. GUEST.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

W. BENTLEY, L.M.S.S.A.

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND MEAT AND FOODS INSPECTOR :

P. H. G. GRIMMETT, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I., R.P.

PUPIL ASSISTANT :

A. L. MORGAN.

CLERK :

MISS M. EVANS from August 28th.

HEALTH VISITORS :

MRS. REILLY AND MISS GIBSON.

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Area	.....	.....	.....	2,515 acres
Population (estimated)	.....	.....	.....	17,460
Inhabited Houses	.....	.....	.....	5,117
Rateable Value	.....	.....	.....	£69,600
General Rate	.....	.....	.....	16/6d.
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate				£252

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### DESCRIPTION OF DISTRICT

The District is bounded on the North by Cannock Rural District, on the North-West and South-West by Wolverhampton County Borough, and on the South-East, East, and North-East by Willenhall Urban District.

The elevation is approximately 500 feet above sea level, being part industrial, with a Rural aspect on the Northern side.

The inhabitants are engaged in a variety of occupations, Agricultural workers, Iron and Steel workers, Steel Trap makers, Keysmiths, Locksmiths, Foundry workers, Paint workers, Coal miners.

The general health of the population is very satisfactory.

# VITAL STATISTICS

## LIVE BIRTH RATE

Males		Females		Total		Rate Per 1,000
L.	I.	L.	I.	L.	I.	
139	4	134	5	273	9	16.15

STILLBIRTHS—Nil.

## DEATH RATE

Males	Females	Total	Rate Per 1,000
74	75	149	8.53

## INFANT MORTALITY RATE

Deaths under one year

Males		Females		Total		Rate Per 1,000
L.	I.	L.	I.	L.	I.	
5	—	7	—	12	—	42.55

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth :

From Sepsis ..... NONE

From other causes ..... NONE



# INFANT MORTALITY DURING YEAR 1950

CAUSES OF DEATH	Total Under One year	Under 1 day	1-7 days	7-14 days	14-28 days	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months
Prematurity .....	7	3	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia .....	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Spina Bifidia .....	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Congenital Atresia of Bowel .....	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Gastro-Enteritis .....	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
TOTALS .....	12	3	2	3	2	1	—	1	—

# CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER ONE YEAR IN AGE GROUPS

Year 1950

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and Under 3 months	3 months and Under 6 months	6 months and Under 9 months	9 months and Under 12 m'ths.	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All other forms of										
Tuberculosis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. Infectious Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Pneumonia .....	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea and Enteritis .....	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Premature Birth .....	3	4	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	7
Congenital Malformations, Etc. ....	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	2
Other Violent Causes .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All Other Causes .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS .....	3	5	—	2	10	1	—	1	—	12

# CAUSES OF DEATH IN WEDNESFIELD URBAN DISTRICT

CAUSES OF DEATH	1946		1947		1948		1949		1950	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
All Causes	79—61 140		79—51 130		76—61 137		83—69 152		74—75 149	
Enteric Fever .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Small Pox .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles .....	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Scarlet Fever .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria including Membranous Croup .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Meningococcal Meningitis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Syphilis .....	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System .....	6	1	6	3	6	2	3	2	3	2
Other Forms .....	2	—	2	—	—	—	3	1	1	—
Cancer Malignant Disease .....	11	9	12	9	8	14	10	11	9	16
Aneurysm .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diabetes .....	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Bladder Diseases .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Cerebral Haemorrhage .....	3	2	4	5	4	9	8	11	4	9
Heart Disease .....	15	21	16	9	17	10	15	18	25	17
Other Circulatory Diseases .....	3	—	2	1	3	3	6	4	3	3
Bronchitis .....	8	4	4	5	4	1	6	4	3	7
Pneumonia, all forms .....	5	5	7	1	7	2	7	3	—	3
Other Respiratory Diseases .....	2	—	1	—	4	—	1	—	3	—
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum .....	1	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis .....	—	1	2	—	2	1	—	—	1	—
Appendicitis .....	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Cirrhosis of Liver .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases of Liver, etc. ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other digestive diseases .....	3	—	2	3	1	—	2	2	—	—
Acute and Chronic Nephritis .....	—	2	—	—	—	3	1	1	4	—
Puerperal Sepsis .....	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases and accidents of Pregnancy and Parturition .....	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Debility and Mal- formation, Premature Births .....	6	5	9	4	9	1	4	1	—	2
Road Accidents .....	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Suicide .....	1	1	1	—	—	2	1	1	3	—
Other Deaths from Violence .....	2	1	3	1	1	1	1	—	3	2
Other Defined Diseases .....	10	7	6	7	8	9	9	7	9	13
Causes ill defined or unknown .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Estimated Population —	16,040		16,410		16,730		17,140		17,460	
Total Deaths .....	140		130		137		152		149	
Death Rate .....	8.72		7.92		8.18		8.86		8.53	



# CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS FOR YEAR 1950

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 & over	Total	Males	Females
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory Syst m .....	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	3	—	—	5	3	2
Other Forms of Tuberculosis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
Syphilitic Diseases .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles .....	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-Encephalitis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Infectious Encephalitis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus. ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	4	4	—
Cancer of Lung and Bronchus .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	3	1	—
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	4	6	4	2
Cancer of Breast .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	12	—	8
Cancer of all other Sites .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	13	4	9
Diabetes .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	34	42	25	17
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	—	—	—	—
Heart Disease .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	3	6	3	3
Other Circulatory Diseases .....	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	7	10	3	7
Bronchitis .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	3
Pneumonia .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	3	—
Other Respiratory Diseases .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1
Ulceration of the Stomach or Duodenum .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Enteritis and Diarrhoea .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Appendicitis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	4	4	—
Nephritis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Maternal Causes .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature Birth .....	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	4	3
Congenital Malformations, Etc. ....	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	2	—	2
Suicide .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Road Traffic Accidents .....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	5	3	2
Other Violent Causes .....	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	10	17	7	10
All Other Causes .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS .....	12	—	1	—	2	1	3	4	15	23	88	149	74	75

## **SECTION B.**

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### **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA**

In accordance with Part III of the National Health Service Act, Health Services are provided by the local Health Authority, namely, the County Council, the organisation and administration being in the hands of the County Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Ramage. Wednesfield is included in the Health Area No. 9 of the County Scheme, Dr. Kynaston of Wednesbury being Area Medical Officer of Health.

No. 9 AREA HEALTH OFFICE : 20, Hydes Road, Wednesbury.  
Telephone No. : Wednesbury 0279.

As regards General Hospital and Specialist Services, their administration is vested in the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

#### **Laboratory Facilities.**

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations and chemical analyses are made by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the County Buildings, Stafford.

#### **Ambulance Facilities.**

This Service is provided for under Part III of the National Health Service Act by the County Council.

MAIN AMBULANCE STATION : Clemson Street, Willenhall.  
Telephone No. : Willenhall 580.

I have found the service to be highly satisfactory.

#### **Nursing in the Home.**

The County Council provide services as one of the benefits to be obtained under the new Health Service. A qualified nurse gives professional service to necessitous non-infectious cases.

#### **Home Help Service.**

This service is organised by the County Council and operates from the Area Health Office, 20, Hydes Road, Wednesbury.

## **Maternity and Child Welfare.**

Valuable advice and assistance may be obtained at this centre. The times of attendance are as follows :—

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE :

Every Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC :

Alternate Mondays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WELFARE CENTRE : Methodist School, Well Lane.

Maternity cases are provided for by the Women's Hospital, New Cross Hospital and Rosemary Ednam Maternity Home. Two Midwives reside within the District.

## **Hospitals.**

The Royal Hospital, the Women's Hospital and New Cross Hospital are all within easy reach. Admissions being arranged by the Medical Practitioners.

## **Tuberculosis.**

The Dispensary for the District is situated in Wolverhampton.

The sanatoria available are :—

For males :—Prestwood Sanatorium.

For females :—Groundslow and Yarfield.

For children :—The Limes, Himley.

## **Nursery.**

This has been used to full capacity during the year. It is a great help to mothers. A high standard of efficiency is maintained.

## **Water Supply.**

The supply of water for drinking and domestic purposes is good and adequate and is obtained from Wolverhampton Corporation.

I am indebted to Mr. Brian L. McMillan, B.Sc., M.Inst.C.E., Water Engineer, for the following report.

“ The water supplied within your area has been satisfactory in quality and in quantity.

The water supplied by the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking does not have a plumbo-solvent action. Subsequent to treatment at the works (where necessary) there has been no known contamination.”

### **Registration of Births and Deaths.**

The following are the times and places where the District Registrar, Mr. A. W. Tunley may be seen each week.

	10 a.m. to 12-30 p.m.	2-30 p.m. to 5 p.m.
MONDAY .....	Calves Croft, Willenhall.	Hall Street, Bilston.
TUESDAY .....	Bilston.	Willenhall.
WEDNESDAY	Willenhall.	Wednesfield Church Institute. 3-0 to 5 p.m.
THURSDAY	Bilston.	
FRIDAY .....	Willenhall.	Bilston.
SATURDAY	Bilston.	



# CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1950

DISEASES	FINAL NUMBERS AFTER CORRECTION												Total Cases Admitted to Hospital
	AGE PERIODS—YEARS												
	All Ages	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 upwards	
Diphtheria, including Membranous Group	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas .....	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1
Scarlet Fever .....	14	—	3	7	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Ophthalmia .....	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	18	—	—	—	1	4	1	4	1	5	1	1	3
Other Forms .....	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Pneumonia .....	8	—	2	—	1	—	—	2	2	—	—	3	—
Whooping Cough .....	68	5	32	31	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles .....	56	2	27	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery .....	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS .....	175	9	65	66	8	4	3	7	3	5	3	2	18



**Smallpox.** No case was notified during the year.

**Scarlet Fever.**

14 cases were notified compared with 16 in 1949. No death occurred.

**Diphtheria.**

One case was notified throughout the year. No case occurred in 1949. This is very satisfactory and no doubt due to the large percentage of children immunised.

**Food Poisoning.**

2 cases occurred during the year. One on return from a holiday. In neither case was more than one member of the family affected.

**Enteric Fever.** No case occurred.

**Measles.**

56 cases were notified against 154 in 1949. One death occurred.

**Whooping Cough.**

68 cases were notified against 25 in 1949. No death occurred.

**Encephalitis Lethargica.** No case occurred.

**Influenza and Pneumonia.**

During the year 8 cases of Pneumonia were notified as against 12 in 1949 and 24 in 1948. There were 3 deaths due to this cause against 10 in 1949. No death occurred from Influenza.

**Tuberculosis.**

At the end of the year there remained on the register 155 persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 83 males and 72 females, and 71 persons, 31 males and 40 females, suffering from other forms of Tuberculosis, a total on the register of 226. From the following table it will be seen that 5 deaths were registered as due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 1 death occurred from other forms of Tuberculosis. 18 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year and 2 other forms. 3 of the Pulmonary cases were admitted to sanatoria.

# TUBERCULOSIS

## New Cases and Mortality during 1950

AGE PERIODS YEARS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pul.		Non. Pul.		Pul.		Non. Pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 to 1 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 10 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 15 .....	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
15 to 20 .....	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 to 25 .....	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
25 to 35 .....	—	4	—	—	—	1	—	—
35 to 45 .....	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
45 to 55 .....	4	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
55 to 65 .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 upwards .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS .....	9	9	1	1	3	2	1	—

### Cancer.

25 deaths occurred from this disease during the year, 9 males and 16 females.

### AGES AND PARTS AFFECTED

PARTS AFFECTED	20-30		30-40		40-50		50-60		60-70		70-		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Breast .....	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	4	—	1	7
Rectum .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Colon .....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	4
Lung .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	4
Stomach .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	4
Pancreas .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Prostrate .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Uterus .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
TOTALS .....	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	3	2	9	4	3	25

# INFECTIOUS DISEASES

CASES NOTIFIED	YEAR										
	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Pneumonia .....	8	14	23	59	6	10	34	67	21	12	8
Puerperal Sepsis .....	2	3	3	6	3	—	3	2	—	2	2
Scarlet Fever .....	16	59	111	77	33	15	56	53	51	16	14
Erysipelas .....	2	4	7	6	2	1	2	4	6	—	2
Malaria .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria incl. Membranous Group .....	23	43	37	23	2	22	20	13	3	—	1
Opthalmia Neonatorum .....	1	4	3	4	1	—	3	—	—	—	1
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	11	17	17	10	18	16	18	16	18	23	18
Other Forms .....	3	4	1	5	10	7	1	4	3	4	2
Encephalitis Lethargica .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles .....	12	129	25	245	12	106	21	204	131	154	56
DEATHS											
Pneumonia .....	2	10	10	11	5	6	10	8	9	10	3
Puerperal Sepsis .....	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .....	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria incl. Membranous Group .....	2	4	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Opthalmia Neonatorum .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis .....	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	9	10	11	2	5	9	7	9	8	5	5
Other Forms .....	2	3	1	2	1	2	2	2	—	4	1
Encephalitis Lethargica .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles .....	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	1

# SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

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MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM, AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1950.

Activity during the year has been of a general nature, which has been itemised in tabular form on the following pages to permit of ready assimilation.

At the outset of the year, the question of dustbins supply was under consideration and following a report of the sub-committee set up to consider ways and means, the Council adopted a scheme within the terms of Section 75 (3) of the Public Health Act 1936, i.e., to provide dustbins in default and make an annual charge of 5/-d. per bin.

From May to August the economy of the collection of Kitchen Waste and Salvage was continually under review, resulting in the cessation of collection in the latter month as an uneconomic proposition.

Miss Mary Evans joined the staff on August 28th bringing welcome relief to the clerical side of the work, and thus enabling my pupil assistant to obtain field work experience.

Speaking generally, standards in Wednesfield are on the up-grade and I would in conclusion express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, to the Medical Officer of Health, to colleagues and staff for help and co-operation during this past year.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Madam, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

P. H. G. GRIMMETT,

*Sanitary Inspector.*



<b>Complaints and Enquiries received</b>	.....	<b>3,167.</b>
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**General Sanitation.**

**Visits.**

Drainage	.....	226
Water Supply	.....	10
Stables and Piggeries	.....	21
Tents, Vans, Sheds	.....	26
Public Conveniences	.....	3
Factories	.....	11
Refuse Collection (Dustbins)	.....	137
Refuse Disposal	.....	8
Theatres and Places of Entertainment	.....	2
Rodent Control	.....	35
Smoke Observations	.....	13
Schools	.....	1
Shops (other than food)	.....	51
Miscellaneous Visits	.....	145
Number of notices served	.....	89
Number completed	.....	72
Interviews	.....	171
Appointments	.....	20

**Details of Work Accomplished.**

Floors repaired	.....	16
Plastering made good	.....	12
External rendering	.....	1
Fireplaces repaired	.....	10
Eaves gutters repaired	.....	6
„ „ cleaned	.....	3
Rainwater down pipes repaired	.....	2
Chimneys repaired	.....	2
Roofs repaired	.....	8
Outhouses roofs repaired	.....	2
W.C. apartments roofs repaired	.....	1
Verandah roofs repaired	.....	1
Brickwork made good	.....	1
Sink waste pipes repaired	.....	1
Soil pipe connections made good	.....	1



W.C. walling rebuilt	.....	.....	.....	1
W.C. seats provided	.....	.....	.....	3
W.C. cisterns repaired	.....	.....	.....	1
W.C. pedestals repaired or renewed	.....	.....	.....	4
Inspection covers, gully grids provided	.....	.....	.....	6
Stairwells made good (Brickwork)	.....	.....	.....	2
Stair-treads renewed	.....	.....	.....	2
Sculleries rebuilt	.....	.....	.....	1
Boilers provided	.....	.....	.....	1
H.W. Cylinders renewed	.....	.....	.....	1
C.W. tanks renewed	.....	.....	.....	2
Window woodwork repaired	.....	.....	.....	5
Fowl and Duck runs cleansed	.....	.....	.....	2
Premises cleansed	.....	.....	.....	2

The cleansing of private drains was continued throughout the year ; 367 premises receiving attention ; resulting in a gross income of £48-13s.-5d.

#### Food Inspection.

Slaughter Houses	.....	.....	.....	4
Bake-houses	.....	.....	.....	9
Dairies and Milkshops	.....	.....	.....	38
Ice Cream Premises	.....	.....	.....	46
Cafes	.....	.....	.....	8
Street Vendors	.....	.....	.....	8
Food Preparing Premises	.....	.....	.....	10
Fishmongers, Poultry and Greengrocers	.....	.....	.....	30
Fried Fish Establishments	.....	.....	.....	23
Grocers	.....	.....	.....	65
Butchers	.....	.....	.....	11

#### Foodstuffs Condemned.

28 lbs. 2 ozs.	.....	.....	Tinned Tomatoes.
2—2 pt. tins	.....	.....	Milk
2 lbs.	.....	.....	Tinned Steak.
3 oz. Bottle	.....	.....	Fishpaste.
27 lbs.	.....	.....	Gorgonzola Cheese.
5 lbs.	.....	.....	Cake.
1 lb. tin	.....	.....	Baked Beans.
7 lbs.	.....	.....	Biscuits.
5 lbs.	.....	.....	Cooked Ham.
16 x 25 Kilograms	.....	.....	Apricot fruit pulp.

### **Ice-Cream.**

5 new licences were approved for the sale of Ice-Cream during the year, in each case was the proviso made of selling wrapped commodity only. Of the samples taken only one fell in Grade IV Bacteriologically. All having more than  $2\frac{1}{2}\%$  fat content.

The opening of the new Cafe in the High Street adjoining the Regal Cinema during the month of September is worthy of note, for what was a disturbing patch of ground right opposite the Church now presents a very pleasing appearance to the enhancement of Wednesfield. The brilliant splash of colour from the flowers on the Church wall during the summer period made this part a delightful spot. This pleasurable show has proved that people appreciate beauty: may this policy extend in other parts of the district as a stimulant to those who pass by.

### **Milk and Dairy Regulations.**

The Supplementary Licences issued during the year are as hereunder :—

Pasteurised	.....	.....	6
Tuberculin Tested	.....	.....	6
Sterilised	.....	.....	6

Dealers' licences being still the subject of survey. Of the samples taken by the County Council as the Food and Drug Authority, the returns are mostly satisfactory, one T.B. positive return at a dairy farm being followed up, action being taken within the terms of Article 20 of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Regulations, 1949, the farmer being advised to submit his milk for heat treatment.

### **Slaughter of Animals Act.**

10 renewal licences and two new licences were issued for the slaughter of animals under the Act of 1933.

### **Section 47, Public Health Act 1936.**

3 Notices were served and completed during the year for the conversion of waste water closets to the water carriage system, a general approach to these matters being restrained by reason of the overloaded state of the present sewage works. It is sincerely hoped that extensions to these works will soon be commenced, that the unnecessary evil of waste water closets might be removed.

The district has been relatively free from those cases of Infectious disease coming within the perview of the Sanitary Department. 15 visits were made in this connection and 9 inspections in respect of disinfection thereto. In 20 cases terminal disinfection was carried out, 9 being after infectious disease, and 11 being after death or removals, such treatment being particularly carried out where T.B. persons were concerned. Other visits totalled 31 in this respect.

**Inspection of Dwelling Houses.**

Under the Public Health Act 1936	.....	131
No. of Inspections made	.....	302
Under the Housing Act 1936	.....	143
No. of Inspections made	.....	248
Overcrowded houses	.....	7
No. of re-inspections made	.....	8
Verminous Premises	.....	8
No. of re-inspections made	.....	4
Premises disinfested (including woodworm)		6

**Control of Civil Building, Defence Regulation 56A.**

Licences granted	.....	7
Visits in connection therewith	.....	13

**House-hold Kitchen Waste and Salvage.**

For the 7½ months of its operation collection continued over the same area as at the end of 1949, the return every week being approximately double that of the Board of Trade standard.

Kitchen Waste	.....	42 tons
Paper	.....	16 cwts.
Rags	.....	1½ cwt.

**Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.**

The following details set out the return as required by the Directorate of Infestation Control of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

# PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Report for period 31st March to 31st December, 1950.

## 1. PREVALENCE OF RATS AND MICE

	Total (i)	Number of Properties in Local Authority's Area in which Infestation was			Analysis of Column (iv)		
		Notified by Occupier (ii)	Otherwise discovered (iii)	Recorded Total of (ii) & (iii) (iv)	Number infested by		
					Rats		
					Major (v)	Minor (vi)	Mice only (vii)
Local Authority's Property	3	1	1	2	1	1	—
Dwelling House ( <i>Estimate</i> )	4900	39	31	70	6	33	31
Business Premises	284	12	2	14	7*	4	3
Agricultural Property	15	—	1	1	1	—	—
TOTAL	5202	52	35	87	15	38	34

\* Including 1 Reservoir.



2. MEASURES OF CONTROL BY LOCAL AUTHORITY

	No. of Properties inspected	No. of Inspections made	Number of Notices served under Section 4		Number of Treatments carried out			Block treatments of properties in different occupancies under Sect. 6 (1) or by informal arrangement		
			Treatments	Works	By arrangement with occupier	Under Section 5 (1)		No. of Blocks	Surface	Assoc. Sewers
						Rats	Mice only			
Local Authority's Property	6	9	—	—	5	1	—	1	—	3
Dwelling House .....	100	108	—	—	22	20	—	12	58	—
Business Premises .....	23	34	—	—	20	3	—	1	2	—
Agricultural Property .....	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
TOTALS .....	130	152	—	—	48	24	—	15	61	3

The estimated kill for the whole 12 months is as follows :—

Business Premises .....	1,176 rats.	150 mice.
Private Dwellings .....	345 "	304 "
Urban District Council Premises .....	321 "	33 "



The following circular letter was sent to the farmers in the district, and threshing contractors in respect to Threshing and Dismantling of Ricks Regulation, issued under the Above Act :—

Dear Sir,

**Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.**

**Threshing and Dismantling of Ricks.**

Under the Damage by Pests Act of 1949, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has now made Regulations in respect to the threshing and dismantling of ricks. These Regulations are entitled “ Prevention of Damage by Pests (Threshing and Dismantling of Ricks) Regulations, 1950, No. 1172, copies of which may be obtained from His Majesty’s Stationery Office, Price 1d.

These Regulations came into force on and from the twenty-fourth day of July, 1950, the gist of which places the onus on the owner of any rick of corn, peas, beans, tares, or linseed, to take all practicable steps to destroy Rats and Mice escaping from the rick or foundations thereof, during the operation of dismantling ; and, secondly, should any rick be dismantled after the first day of November of the year in which the stacked crop was harvested, neither the owner of the rick nor any person contracting to dismantle a rick, may commence dismantling until a fence has been erected around the rick, which fence must be at least thirty inches high, secured to the ground at a reasonable distance from the base of the rick, and must be constructed of material impenetrable by rats to enable them to be killed inside the fenced area. If wire netting is used the mesh must not be greater than one half inch.

The penalties for failure to comply are those set out in the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act of 1949.

I would be glad of your co-operation in this respect. Any further advice required can be readily obtained from the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

P. H. G. GRIMMETT,  
Sanitary Inspector.

**Other Pest Control.**

Ants, beetles, cockroaches, steamflies, snails, woodworm, and silverfish, have received their quota of annihilating liquid, as a result of investigations in this direction, and although the main

woodworm difficulty is from the Lyctus Beetle it is interesting to record that the rear portion of one old building in the centre of the township was demolished because of the activities of the Death Watch Beetle, rendering it unsafe.

## **Housing.**

The greatest controversial subject of the present age, requirement of adequate accommodation being the minimum necessity for happy family life.

House erection continued steadily on the Perry Hall Estate, 34 of these new houses being tenanted during the year. In addition 9 pre-war houses were re-let and 6 private cottage owners accepted tenants recommended by the Council for the occupancy of these houses from which large families had been removed. A word of appreciation to them for their kind co-operation. Six new Bungalows and 4 blocks of Maisonettes in Mattox Road were also completed and occupied, the ground floors of the maisonettes by old age people, the first floors by childless couples. In the aggregate therefore, 53 family units received favourable attention during the year. By reason of 3 re-lets 13 old age applicants were likewise accommodated, a complete total of 66, which is very commendable, the one disturbing feature being the greater number of applicants who still desire accommodation.

# INSPECTION OF FACTORIES

Factories Act 1937.

## 1.—INSPECTIONS

for purposes of provisions as to health.

Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

PREMISES	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power .....	16	—	—
Factories without mechanical power .....	4	—	—
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises) .....	—	—	—
TOTAL .....	20	—	—

## 2.—DEFECTS FOUND

PARTICULARS	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.) .....	2	2	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.) .....	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.) .....	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.) .....	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.) .....	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)				
(a) insufficient .....	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective .....	4	3	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes .....	—	—	—	—
TOTAL .....	6	5	—	—



